

{In Archive} Re: Goliad County

Jose Torres to: Mark Krueger

Cc: Larry Wright, Philip Dellinger, Ray Leissner

From: Jose Torres/R6/USEPA/US

To: "Mark Krueger" <markkrueger@wildblue.net>

Cc: Larry Wright/R6/USEPA/US@EPA, Philip Dellinger/R6/USEPA/US@EPA, Ray

Leissner/R6/USEPA/US@EPA

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Thank you Mr. Krueger for your e-mail and for the information on the water supply scenario for the city of Victoria. This morning, Mr. Ted Long and Mr. Jim Kreneck, Goliad County Commissioners, visited with Mr. Larry Wright, Associate Director for the Source Water Protection Branch and Mr. Philip Dellinger, Chief for the Ground Water/UIC Section. Mr. Ray Leissner was out of the office and I was invited to sit in at the meeting.

The Commissioners expressed their concern with the potential for contamination of the area's drinking water that may result from the in-situ uranium mining operations proposed by UEC in Goliad County. They were informed that TCEQ has not formally submitted a request for an aquifer exemption as yet, and that EPA has obtained enough information on the proposed operations and proposed exempted area, which has made it possible to initiate a preliminary evaluation of the project.

The change in scenario in the water supply for the city of Victoria is a very important event. Recently, we have been analyzing historical data on the drawdown resulting from water production operations in the Goliad aquifer in the Kingsville area in Kleberg County. These data were available from the TWDB's website, and proved very helpful in our efforts towards characterizing the Goliad sands through a computerized history match exercise. However, we do not have at this time enough information about the city of Victoria's ground water supply system. Therefore, regretfully, I can not provide a good answer to your question regarding the predicted behavior of the Goliad aquifer in the vicinity of the city of Victoria, though I do believe that the experience we have gained so far may allow us to come up with a defensible projection for the Victoria area, once the required additional information becomes available.

I will inform my superiors about your question, and will keep you posted on our progress towards providing you an answer. Thank you again for writing. Best wishes,

Jose Eduardo Torres - 6WQ-SG EPA, Region 6 (214) 665-8092

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Goliad County



Goliad County

Mark Krueger to: Jose Torres

07/30/2009 01:08 PM

07/30/2009 03:38 PM

Dear Mr. Torres,

It has come to my attention that you and your colleagues were able to meet with two Goliad County Commissioners today. I hope this meeting was productive.

I would personally like to thank you and the other staff of EPA Region VI for taking the time to hear the concerns of the representatives of Goliad County. I truly believe that these concerns are not "knee-jerk reactions", but rather the conclusions of much research and attention to a potentially devastating private venture.

I spoke with one of the Commissioners on his cell phone just a few minutes ago. I approached the subject of extreme drawdown from Victoria County. The City of Victoria converted from 100% groundwater to 90% surface water / 10% groundwater in or about 2005. Recently, the Guadalupe River from which the surface water is drawn has dropped to such a low level that the city has now reverted back to 100% groundwater, in a manner of speaking. The groundwater is being drawn to 100% capacity, but then being routed to the Guadalupe River 1.1 river miles downstream from the point of surface water draw. In other words, Victoria is exchanging groundwater for surface water.

Regardless of which water the City of Victoria chooses to use, the drawdown in the aquifer in Victoria County has now increased to its pre-2005 levels, which means that the water in the aquifer northwest will travel to the southeast towards the Gulf of Mexico at an accelerated rate compared to the last four years. How would the rate of travel of exempted aquifer water away from the mining zone be affected if this shift were to occur during mining?

Thank you again for your attention and obvious concern.

Sincerely,

Mark Krueger 939 Noll Road Meyersville, Texas 77974 Victoria County (361) 485-1910